the Charter of the United Nations of non-intervention in domestic affairs and of the political independence and territorial integrity of States.

- It is equally unjustifiable that the final draft treaty does not include a ban on the transfer of arms in order to carry out actions that use or threaten the use of force in contravention of the Charter of the United Nations, including acts of aggression.

- The principles that should guide the implementation of the treaty, minimum safeguards that the majority of States rely on to address possible abuses and manipulations, were unjustifiably excluded from the instrument's operative paragraphs and their relevance was intentionally watered down with regard to the implementation of the treaty.

- The final draft treaty empowers arms-exporting States to evaluate, at their discretion, the conduct of importing States, on the basis of a list of subjective and imprecise criteria, which can easily be abused and manipulated for political reasons in order to hinder the right of States to acquire and possess arms for self-defence, as recognized by Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations.

- As the scope of the treaty is unclear, there is a real risk that each State will produce their own definitions of that scope and that the treaty will be implemented inconsistently. By not expressly excluding from its scope dual-use parts and components, which are broadly used for legitimate peaceful purposes, the proposed treaty risks becoming a new system for controlling the transfer of technology, equipment and parts, affecting their use in the civilian sphere, particularly by countries that need resources for development.

- The treaty's effectiveness and universality is undermined by not making its entry into force dependent upon its ratification by the major arms producers and exporters.

We hope that these elements will be duly taken into account when considering any future action with regard to this instrument.

I request that this statement be duly reflected in the final report of the Conference.